GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4018
ANSWERED ON:09.04.2003
TELECOM TARIFF
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the telecom tariff rentals, local call, WLL, STD and ISD call charges of the landline telephones after the scheduled hike in tariffs as compared to the mobile telephone tariff levied by different private operators;

(b) whether due to the scheduled hike in telecom tariffs with respect to land line telephone system, the common people are likely to be hit hard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to lay down certain rules and regulations to prevent predatory pricing competition amongst service providers; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/being taken in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUI MAHAJAN)

(a) A comparison of the recent tariffs prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in respect of basic services, WLL(Mobile) and Cellular Mobile is given in the Annexure. These tariffs, which were to come into effect from 1.4.2003 have now been deferred to 1.5.2003.

(b) & (c) No, Sir. The tariffs announced by TRAI do not propose any increase in the rental for subscribers in the rural areas for exchange capacities up to 29999 lines. No increase in rental has been made for senior citizens in rural and urban areas either. Moreover, the tariff announced by TRAI is only a Standard Tariff Package and the service providers can offer Alternative Tariff Packages to subscribers, depending upon the consumer population they service.

(d) & (e) As per the TRAI Act 1997, the power to fix telecom tariffs has been mandated to TRAI only, and Government has no further role in the matter. However, as a regulator, TRAI has made in mandatory for all Service Providers to obtain its approval before implementing their tariff plans except those, which are classified under forbearance. In the latter case, the tariffs are submitted to the TRAI after their introduction. All the tariffs offered by Service Providers are examined by TRAI to ensure their adherence to existing regulation and consonance with the principles of customer protection. While approving tariff plans, TRAI ensures that tariff plans are cost-based, non-discriminatory and non- predatory. ANNEXURE

ITEMS OF TARIFFS	BASIC	WLL(M)	MOBILE
Rental (in Rs.)	Rural - 70 to 280 Urban - 120 to 280	200	Forbearance
Free Calls	Rural - 50 Urban - 30	No free calls	Forbearance
Pulse rate (in seconds)	Basic to Basic - 120 Basic to WLL(M) - 120 Basic to Mobile Metros - 90, Circle - 60	WLL(M) to WLL(M)- Forbearance WLL(M) to Basic- 120 WLL(M) to Mobile- Forbearance	Forbearance
Tariff per metered call (in Rs.)	RURAL 51 to 300 @ 0.80 > 300 @ 1.20 URBAN 31 to 300 @ 1.00 > 300 @ 1.20	Forbearance	Forbearance
STD Call charges	Upto 50 kms - same as local calls. Beyond 50 kms- Forbearance subject	Upto 50 kms-same as local calls. Beyond 50 kms- Forbearance	Upto 50 kms-same as local calls.

	to a ceiling of Rs. 8.40 per minute Rs.8.40 per minute. to a ceiling of Rs.8.40 per minute	subject to a ceiling of Forbearance subject	Beyond 50 kms-
ISD Charges	Forbearance	Forbearance	Forbearance